

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 10/553,317  
Applicant : Alfred R. Rudolph, et al.  
Filed : September 26, 2006  
TC/A.U. : 1654  
Examiner : Ronald T. NIEBAUER

Docket No. : 2697-120  
Customer No. : 06449  
Confirmation No. : 1807

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

In response to the non-final Office Action dated December 28, 2007, Applicants submit the following response:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.